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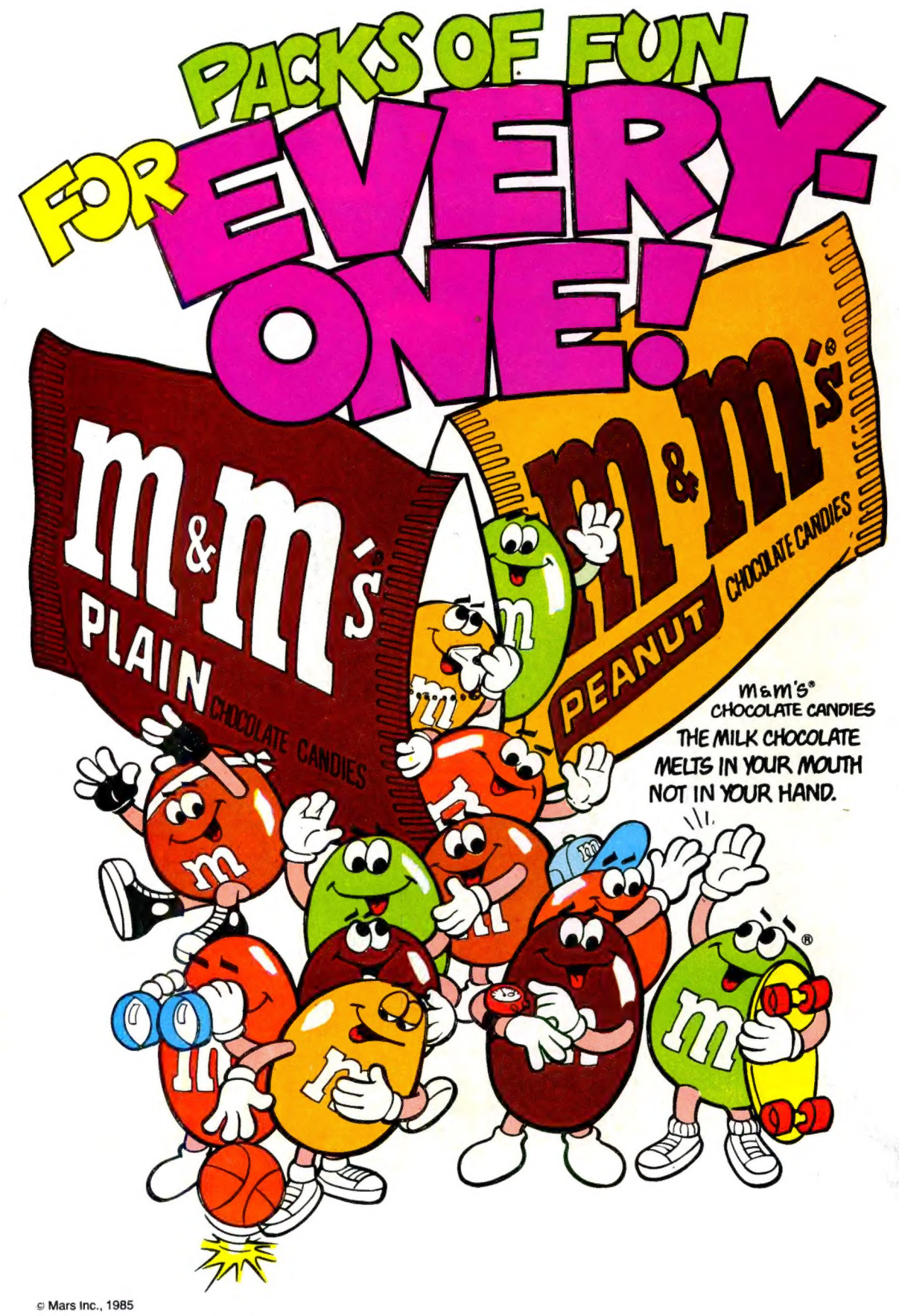

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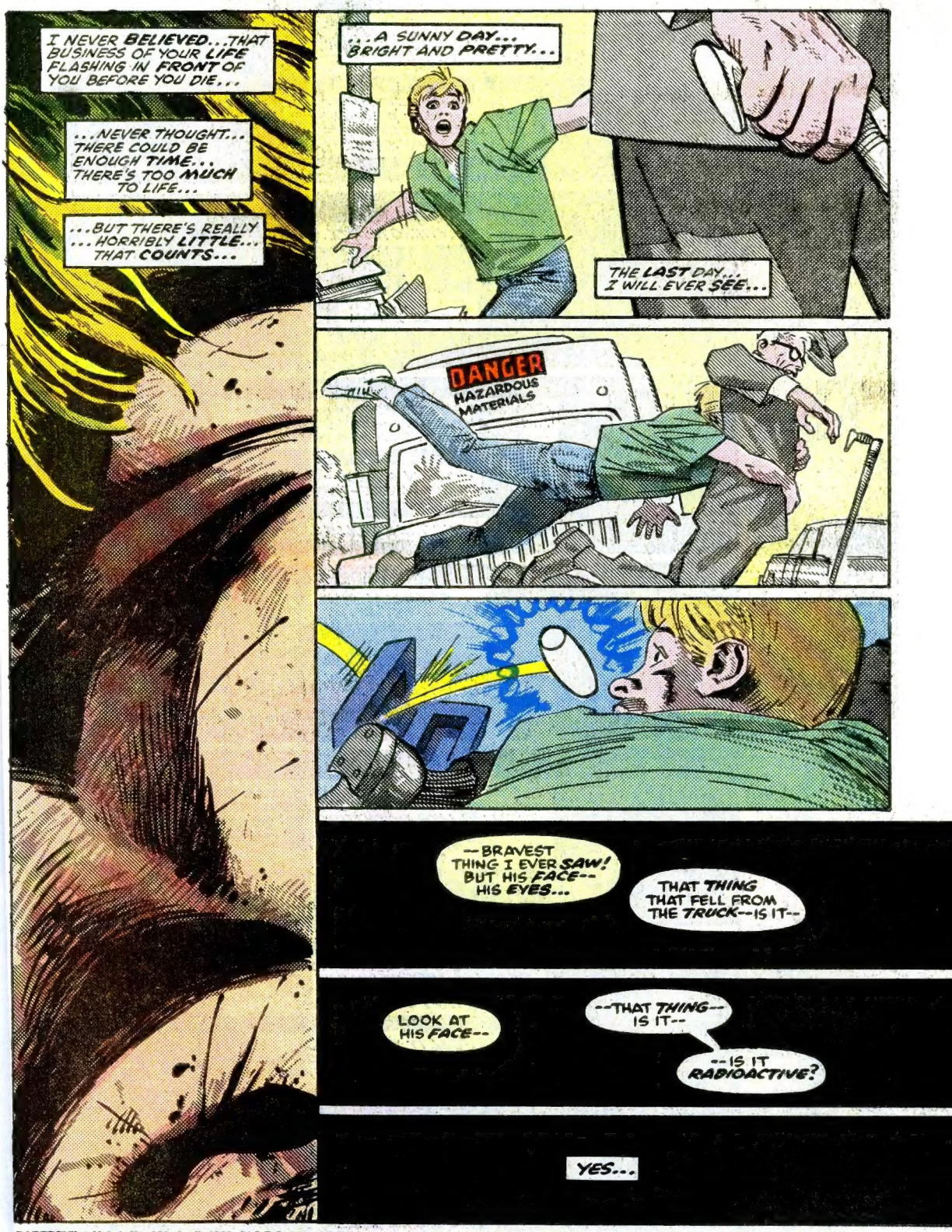

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...IT SPURTS FROM A HEART THAT'S POUNDING SO LOUDLY IT'S TRYING TO BURST FROM MY CHEST--

--MY BLOOD--IT GUSHES THROUGH HIGH POWER HOSES AND SLAMS AGAINST THE BASE OF MY SKULL.

EVERYTHING HURTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.

SANDPAPER SCRAPES MY SKIN EVERY TIME I MOVE--NO--NOT SANDPAPER--SHEETS--STARCHED SHEETS--

--I'M IN A BED--SOMEWHERE--

--AND THE SMELLS...

...CHEMICAL SMELLS. DISINFECTANTS.

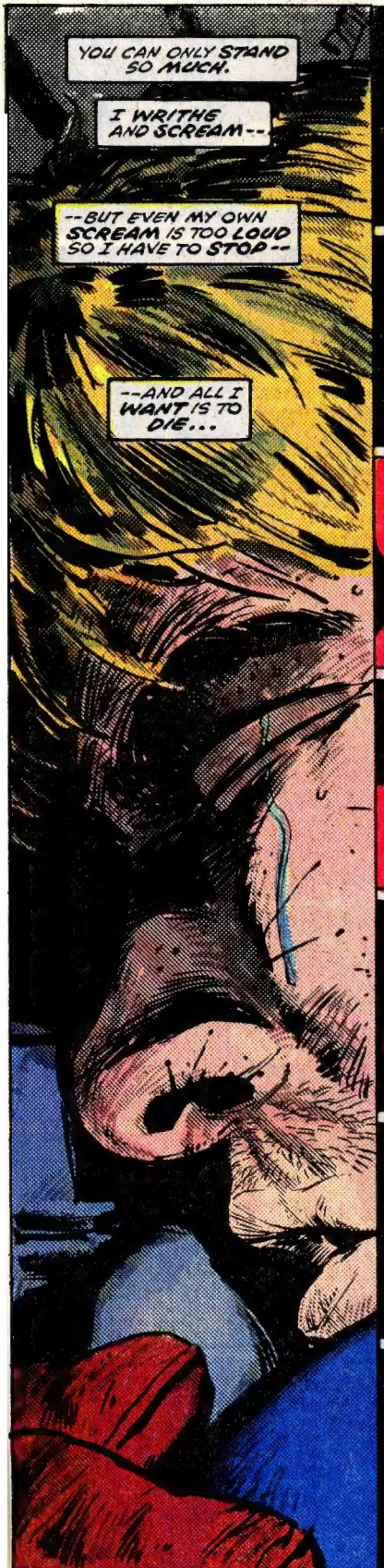
HOSPITAL. I'M IN A HOSPITAL.

THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN ON SCREAMING HINGES. PEOPLE COME AND GO, SMELLING LIKE BATHTUBS FULL OF SWEAT--SMELLING LIKE EATEN FOOD --LIKE ITALIAN SAUCES AND HALF-DIGESTED EGGS--

--THEY STAB ME WITH LONG SHARP NEEDLES. THEY FILL ME WITH DRUGS. BUT THE DRUGS DON'T FOOL ME. I KNOW THEY CUT MY FACE.

I CAN FEEL IT YOU IDIOTS--CAN'T YOU SEE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME FROM FEELING IT?

EVERYTHING HURTS.



...BUT I DON'T DIE. SO I HAVE TO MAKE DO.

AFTER A TIME I SOMEHOW SHUT OUT JUST ENOUGH... AFTER A TIME IT'S ONLY AGONY.

THEN, PAST THE FUMES OF WHATEVER IT IS THEY USE TO CLEAN THE FLOOR, THERE COMES A WAVE OF WHISKEY --A MEGAPHONE VOICE...

SON?

CAN YOU HEAR ME, SON?

NEAR YOU--WHAT DO YOU EXPECT--YOU'RE SHOUTING--

THE DOCTORS..THEY SAY YOU'LL BE FINE, SON

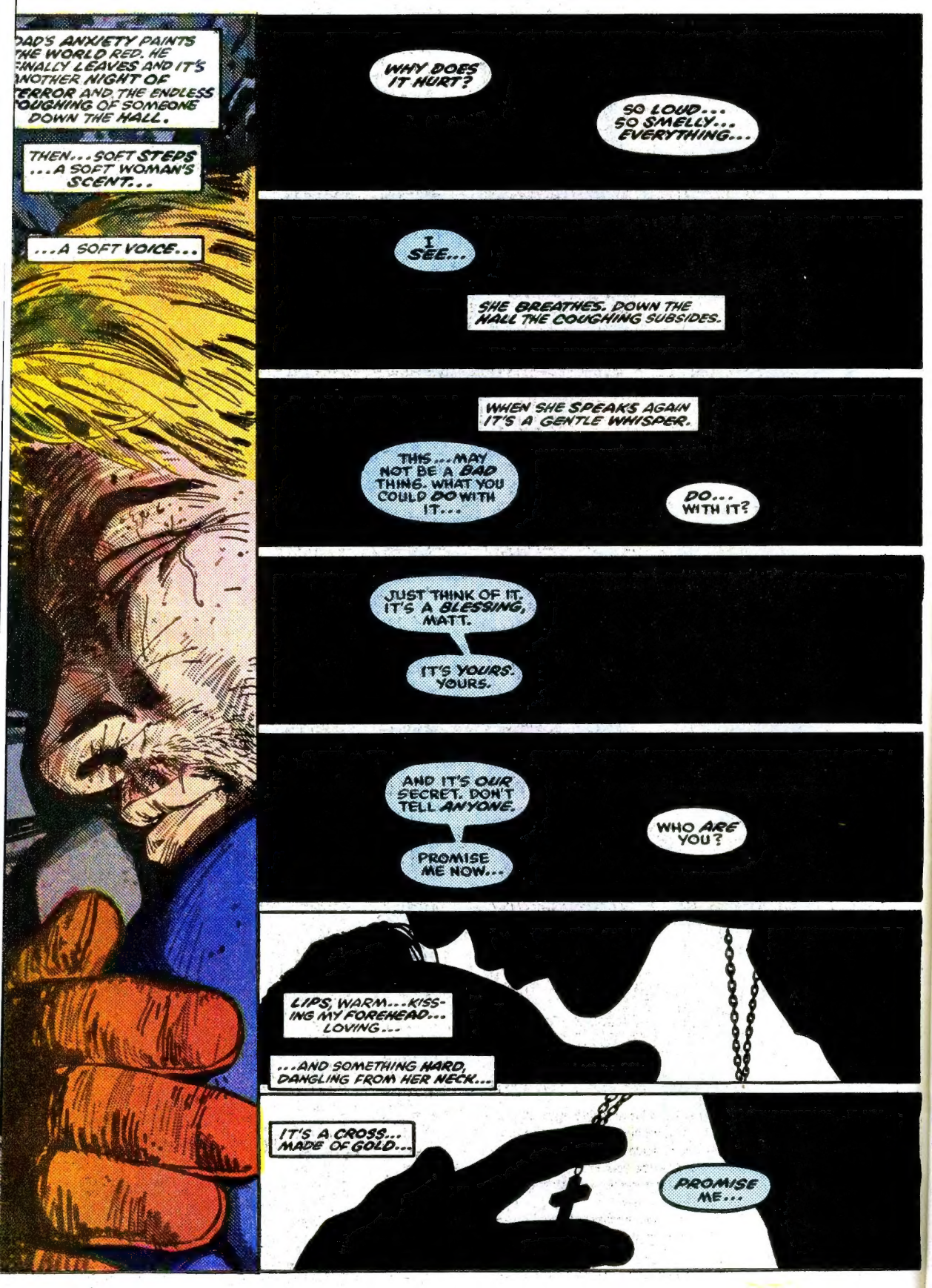
--LIKE ALL THE REST--BREATHES LIKE HE'S A HUNDRED FEET TALL...

YOU'RE A HERO, BOY.

...SO BIG...IT'S LIKE I'M IN HIM...IT'S...

YOU JUST REST NOW.

...IS THAT MY FATHER?


DAD'S ANXIETY PAINTS THE WORLD RED. HE FINALLY LEAVES AND IT'S ANOTHER NIGHT OF TERROR AND THE ENDLESS COUGHING OF SOMEONE DOWN THE HALL.
THEN... SOFT STEPS ...A SOFT WOMAN'S SCENT...
...A SOFT VOICE...
WHY DOES IT HURT?
SO LOUD... SO SMELLY... EVERYTHING...
I SEE...
SHE BREATHES. DOWN THE HALL THE COUGHING SUBSIDES.
WHEN SHE SPEAKS AGAIN IT'S A GENTLE WHISPER.
THIS ...MAY NOT BE A BAD THING. WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH IT...
DO... WITH IT?
JUST THINK OF IT. IT'S A BLESSING, MATT.
IT'S YOURS. YOURS.
AND IT'S OUR SECRET. DON'T TELL ANYONE.
PROMISE ME NOW...
WHO ARE YOU?
LIPS, WARM...KISSING MY FOREHEAD... LOVING...
...AND SOMETHING HARD, DANGLING FROM HER NECK...
IT'S A CROSS... MADE OF GOLD...
PROMISE ME...

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A KIND WOMAN'S GIFT OF HOPE TO ME. I NEVER UNDERSTAND IT--AND SHE NEVER COMES BACK.
BUT IT GETS EASIER...
IT'S OKAY, DAD. I'M AWAKE.
SON... HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
COULD HEAR YOU A MILE OFF. SIT DOWN, DAD.
WE HAVE TO TALK, MATT. MAN TO MAN.
I'M ALL EARS, DAD.
IT'S ABOUT THE ACCIDENT, SON. YOU WERE HIT BY SOMETHING SOME CORPORATION WAS DRIVING THROUGH TOWN. RIGHT THROUGH TOWN.
THEY WON'T SAY IF IT WAS RADIOACTIVE. THEY WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME.
IT MESSED YOU UP PRETTY BADLY, MATT. YOUR FACE... WELL, I'M AMAZED WHAT THEY WERE ABLE TO DO WITH IT. YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK GOOD AS NEW. BUT...
...IT'S YOUR EYES, SON. THEY...
I KNOW I'M BLIND, DAD. THERE AREN'T ANY BANDAGES ON MY EYES-- AND I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A HOSPITAL WITHOUT LIGHTS.
YOU...YOU'RE TAKING IT WELL, SON...
YES...
...I PROMISED...

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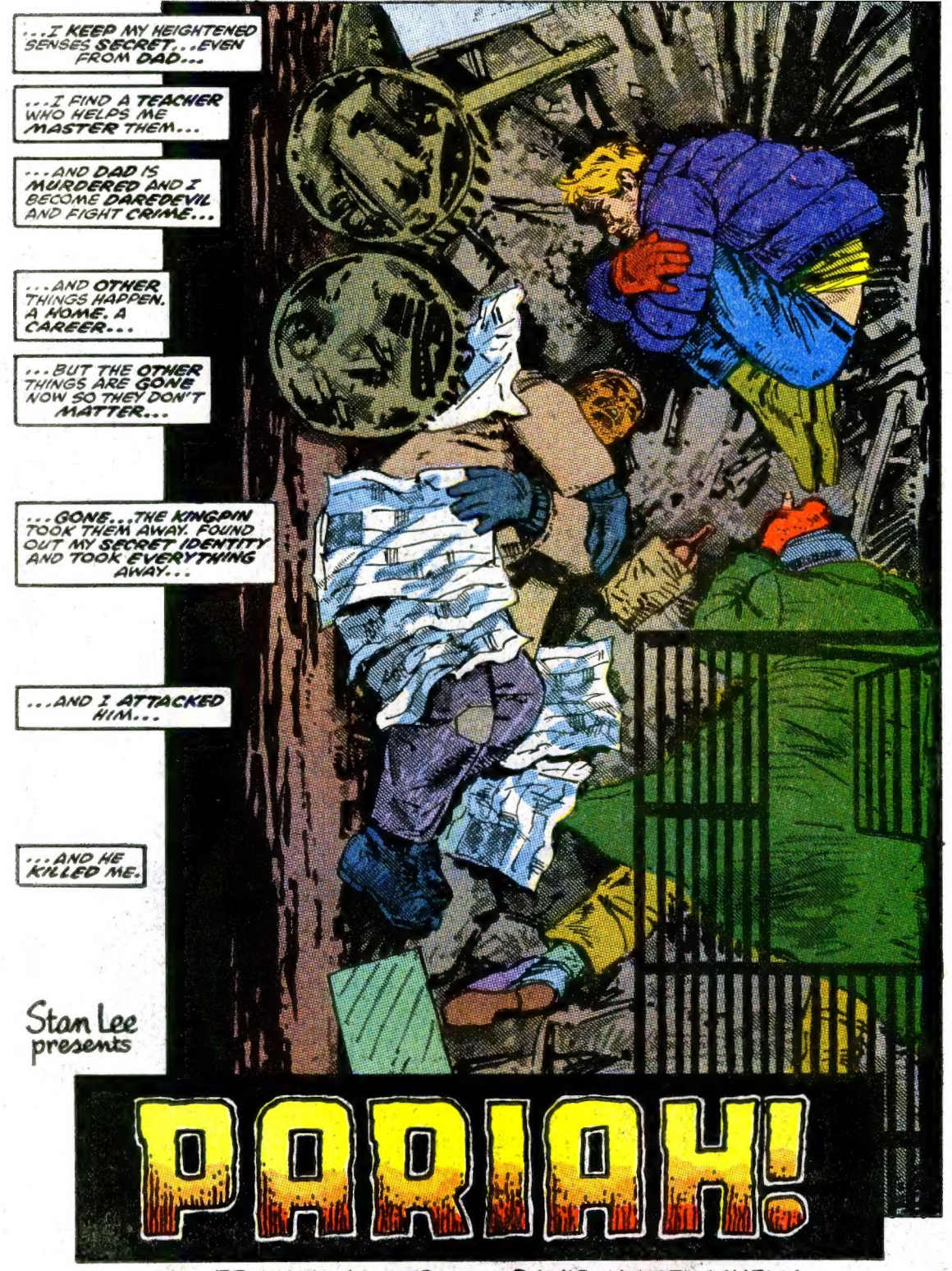

by FRANK MILLER and DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI

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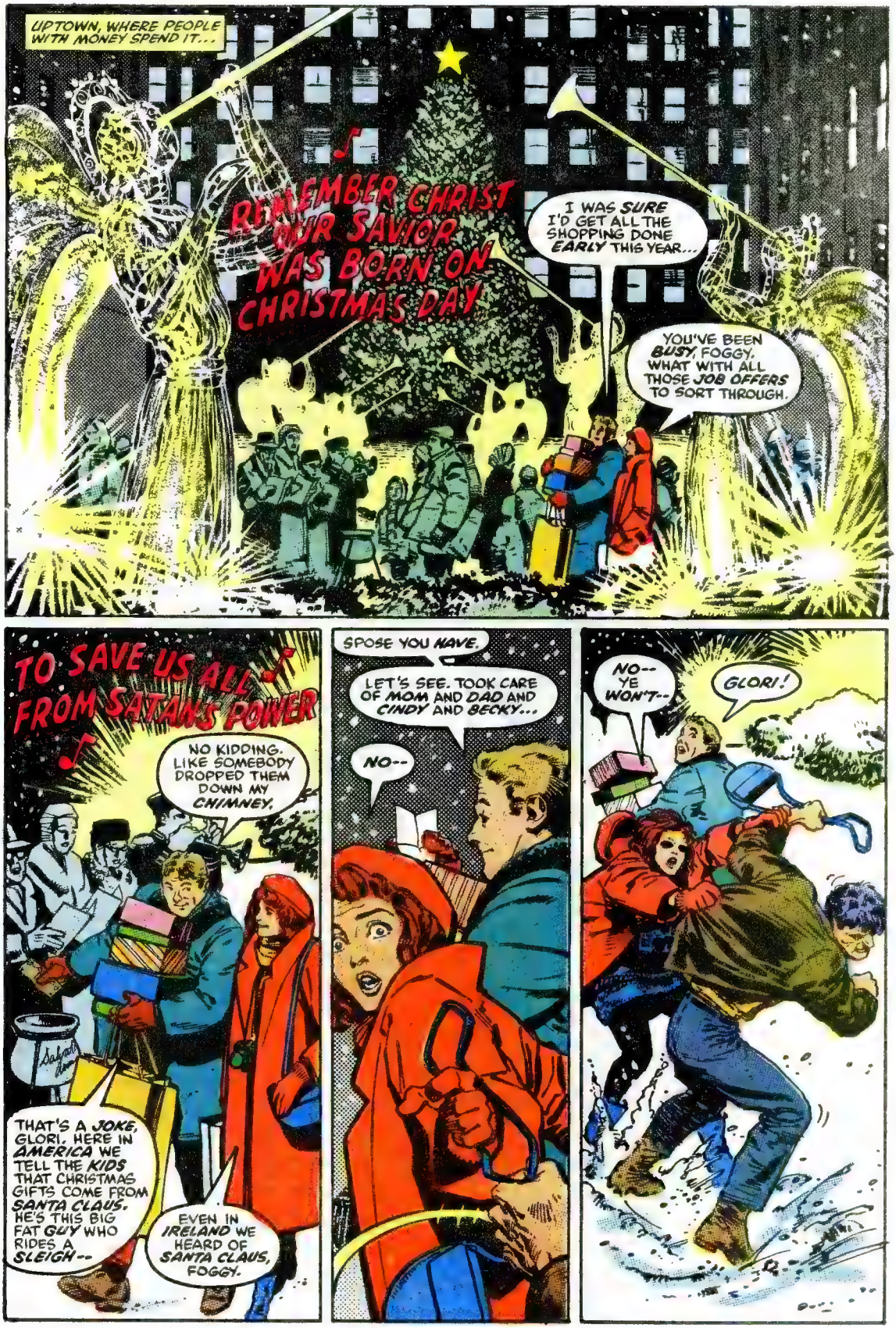
UPTOWN, WHERE PEOPLE WITH MONEY SPEND IT...
REMEMBER CHRIST OUR SAVIOR WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY
I WAS SURE I'D GET ALL THE SHOPPING DONE EARLY THIS YEAR...
YOU'VE BEEN BUSY, FOGGY. WHAT WITH ALL THOSE JOB OFFERS TO SORT THROUGH.
TO SAVE US ALL FROM SATAN'S POWER
NO KIDDING. LIKE SOMEBODY DROPPED THEM DOWN MY CHIMNEY.
THAT'S A JOKE, GLORI. HERE IN AMERICA WE TELL THE KIDS THAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS COME FROM SANTA CLAUS. HE'S THIS BIG FAT GUY WHO RIDES A SLEIGH--
EVEN IN IRELAND WE HEARD OF SANTA CLAUS, FOGGY.
SPOSE YOU HAVE.
LET'S SEE. TOOK CARE OF MOM AND DAD AND CINDY AND BECKY...
NO--
NO-- YE WON'T--
GLORI!

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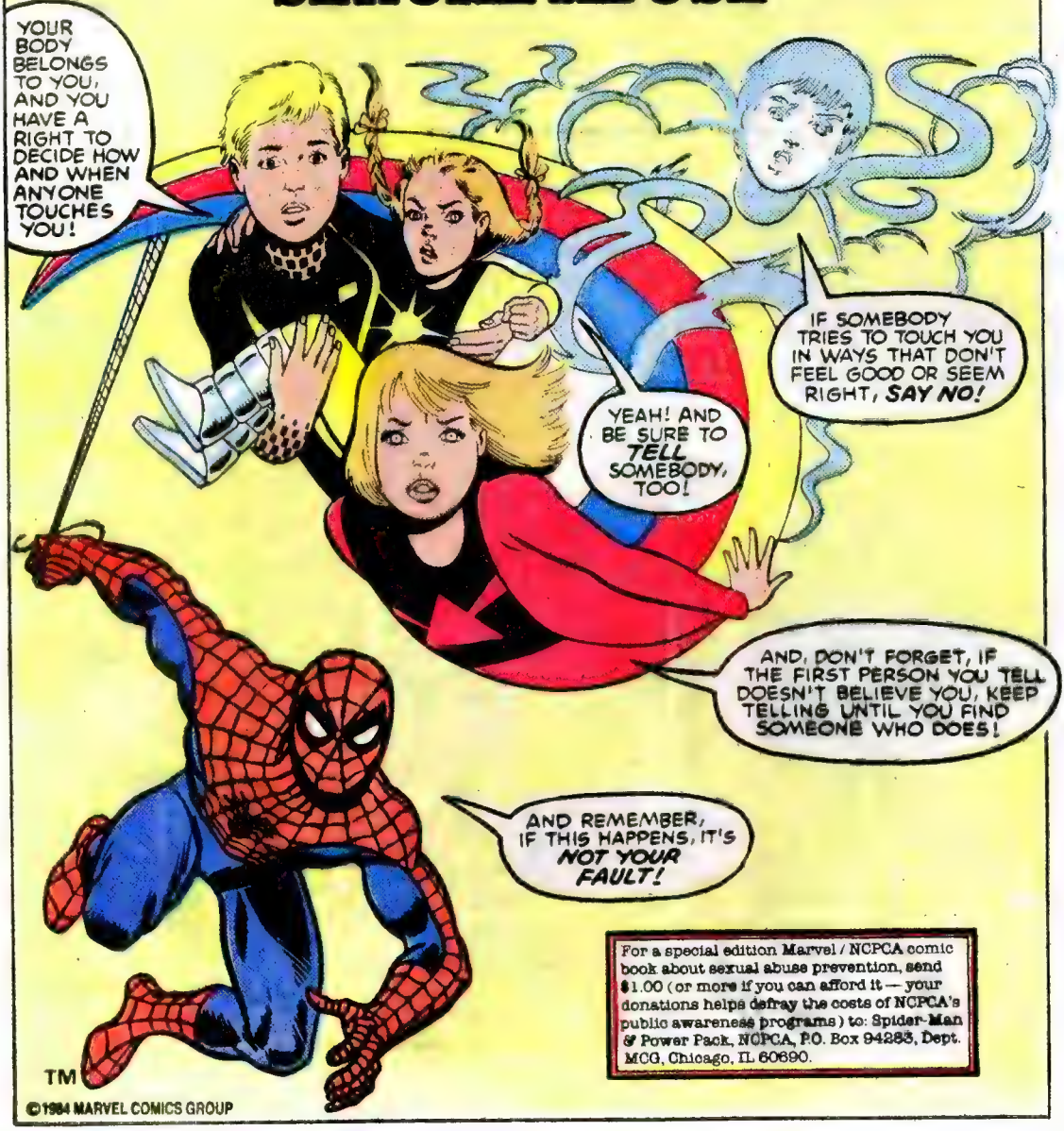

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WOOF!
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AND PORKCHOP...
...MY OLD BOWLING PARTNER...
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SNIKK
CRAZY-- I'LL KILL YOU...
...GOT PORKCHOP A GIFT TOO...
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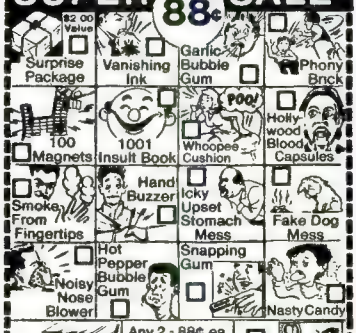

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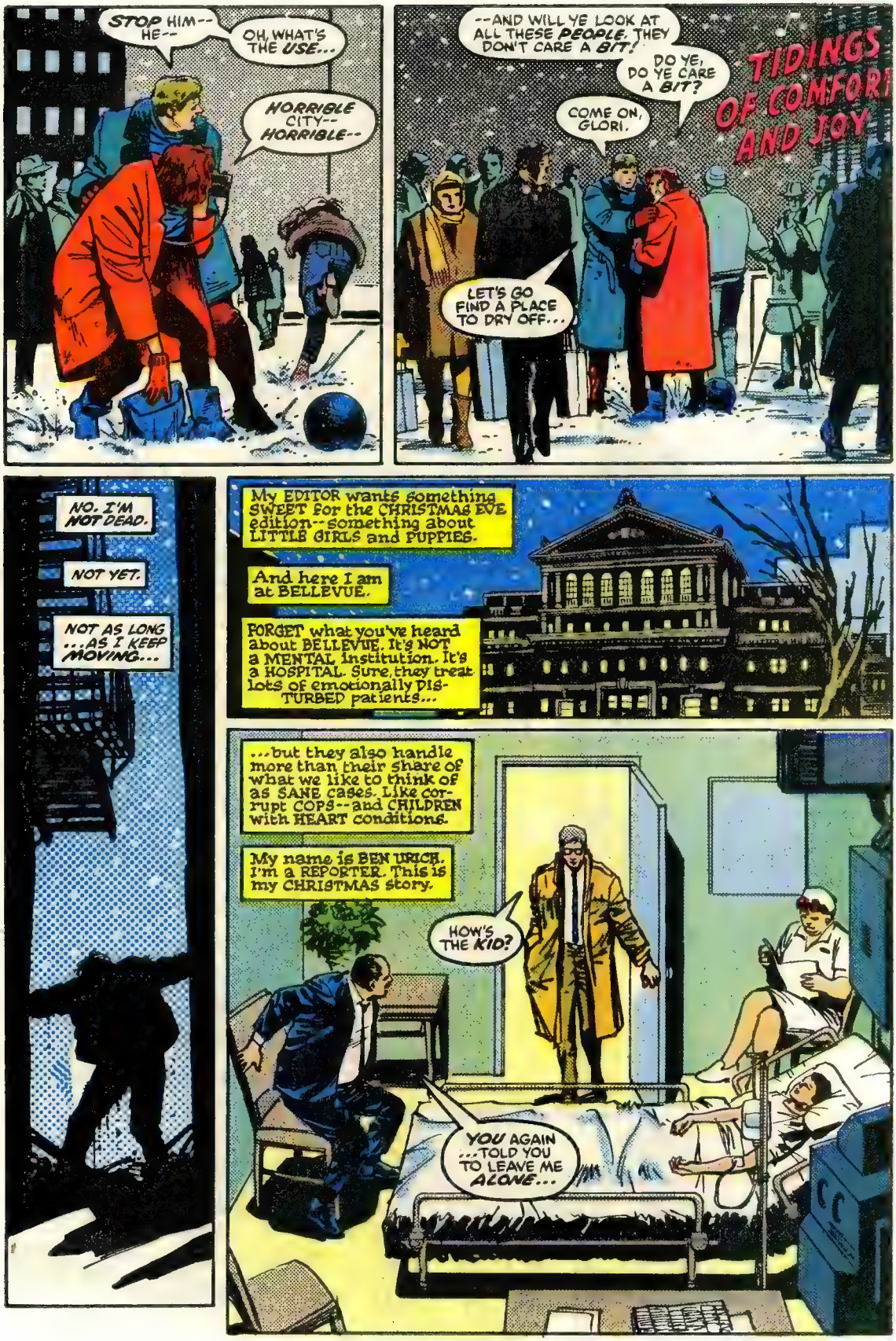
STOP HIM--HE--
OH, WHAT'S THE USE...
HORRIBLE CITY--HORRIBLE--
--AND WILL YE LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE. THEY DON'T CARE A BIT!
DO YE, DO YE CARE A BIT?
COME ON, GLORI.
TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY
LET'S GO FIND A PLACE TO DRY OFF...
NO. I'M NOT DEAD.
NOT YET.
NOT AS LONG ...AS I KEEP MOVING...
My EDITOR wants something SWEET for the CHRISTMAS EVE edition--something about LITTLE GIRLS and PUPPIES.
And here I am at BELLEVUE.
FORGET what you've heard about BELLEVUE. It's NOT a MENTAL institution. It's a HOSPITAL. Sure, they treat lots of emotionally DISTURBED patients...
...but they also handle more than their share of what we like to think of as SANE cases. Like corrupt COPS--and CHILDREN with HEART conditions.
My name is BEN URICH. I'm a REPORTER. This is my CHRISTMAS story.
HOW'S THE KID?
YOU AGAIN ...TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE...

TWENTY YEARS ON THE FORCE. SPOTLESS RECORD. DIDN'T EVEN TAKE VACATIONS.
HOW'S THE KID?
JUST GET OUT OF HERE, URICH. GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
NOBODY'S HEARD FROM MATT MURDOCK IN DAYS. HE MIGHT BE DEAD.
QUITE A FRAME HE WAS PUT IN. QUITE A FRAME.
NO SMOKING IN HERE.
YOU LIED ABOUT MURDOCK. YOU TESTIFIED AGAINST HIM AND GOT HIM DISBARRED AND HUNTED BY THE LAW.
ALL THIS YOU DID FOR THE KINGPIN--THE TOP CRIMINAL IN THIS TOWN.
YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST COP TO GO BAD, MANOLIS. AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DIDN'T HAVE A REASON.
THE BEST TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN CARDIAC PROBLEMS COSTS BAGS OF MONEY--MORE THAN A COP'S MEDICAL PLAN PROVIDES.
BY THE WAY--HOW'S THE KID?
COMPLICATIONS. GOING UNDER THE KNIFE IN AN HOUR. COULD DIE TONIGHT.
KEEP MOVING...
DOESN'T... MATTER WHERE...

CHRISTMAS EVE--HOW CAN IT BE CHRISTMAS EVE WHEN IT'S SO HOT--
--CHRISTMAS IS SNOW AND FIRE-PLACES AND LOVED ONES AND PRESENTS--
--IT ISN'T THE MEXICAN SUN AND QUAKING FROM HEAD TO TOE FROM HEROIN WITH-DRAWAL--
--IT ISN'T ROBBING A BLIND MAN--THE SECOND I'VE ROBBED, THINKS KAREN PAGE--
--MATT--I ROBBED MATT TOO--SOLD HIS SECRET IDENTITY FOR A FIX--
--AND NOW I NEED ANOTHER FIX AND I NEED TO GET TO NEW YORK AND I NEED MATT TO SAVE ME FROM MEN WHO ARE TRYING TO KILL ME-- I NEED MONEY--
--THE SECOND BLIND MAN I'VE ROBBED--BUT THIS ONE CATCHES ME--
--SCREAMS AND WON'T STOP SCREAMING--
--KEEP MOVING--
--DON'T THINK--
--THE KILLERS CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND--

DONT WALK
WATCH IT--
OUT OF THE WAY YOU LUNATIC--
GET YOURSELF KILLED--
DESERVES TO GET HIT--
OH, MAN--
WHUMPP
HE LOOKS BAD--
JUST KEEP DRIVING, MAN--WHO NEEDS THE GRIEF--

KEEP MOVING...
I MISS YOU TOO, MOM. IT'S... WELL, IT'S MATT-- YOU KNOW, MY PARTNER--OR AT LEAST HE USED TO BE MY PARTNER-- HE'S IN A LOT OF TROUBLE. IT'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN...
...BUT AS LONG AS THERE'S A CHANCE I MIGHT HEAR FROM HIM... I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND, MOM...
...OH, THINGS ARE GOING REAL WELL. I'VE GOTTEN SEVERAL JOB OFFERS... YES, I KNOW YOU SAID I WOULD. ONE IN PARTICULAR LOOKS QUITE GOOD. ALMOST TOO GOOD... NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEANT BY THAT...
...AND, WELL, IT'S NOT JUST THAT, MOM. YOU SEE, I'VE MET A GIRL... SHE'S REAL NICE...
JEEZ, TURK. I MEAN WE COULD'VE BOUGHT THE SUITS.
WITH WHAT? WE BEEN TAPPED SINCE THE KINGPIN FROZE US OUT OF WORK.
Volunteers of AMERICA
HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED, GROTTO.
I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, SANTA CLAUS...
SHUT UP. NOW WE SHLEP TO THE UPPER EAST SIDE. THE RICH ONES GIVE US MONEY--AND THEY FEEL BETTER ABOUT BEING RICH-- AND WE FEEL BETTER ALL AROUND.
IT'S THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.
TAKE...
...TAKE IT OFF.

TAKE YOUR FACE OFF, MAN--
JUST A BUM, TURK. ALREADY BEEN BEAT UP PLENTY FROM THE LOOKS.
HERE--BUY YOURSELF A BOTTLE..
TAKE IT OFF.
SHKK
AW, TURK--YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
BLED ALL OVER THE SUIT--
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
Nick's SON dies at 12:03 Christmas morning.
If you want me to DESCRIBE the way that makes me FEEL, you're a GHOUL.

He TALKS. None of it makes much SENSE. But it WILL. I've got my STORY.
I've also got a world class NICOTINE FIT, So I lead him OUT-- to the PARKING LOT--
--where I don't EXPECT to have to face any grouchy NURSES.
IT'S NOT JUST THE KNIFE WOUND--IT'S THAT RIB OF MINE THAT POPPED LIKE A WISHBONE WHEN THE KING-PIN SLUGGED ME--IT HAD THE DECENCY TO STAY WHERE IT BELONGS--
--UNTIL THAT CAR HIT ME...
...NOW IT'S ALL LOOSE AND JAGGED AND EVERY TIME I MOVE IT CUTS AND GOUGES...
...I KEEP WALKING...
...JUST BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO...
KAREN PAGE...
...I'M A REAL FAN OF YOURS ...OF YOUR MOVIES, THAT IS.
I NEED--
I CAN SEE WHAT YOU NEED.

NOT JUST-- THE JUNK. I NEED A RIDE-- TO AMERICA.
I CAN PAY.
THE SMAK--FOR THAT, I'LL TAKE YOUR MONEY. BUT THE RIDE, WELL...
...LET'S JUST SAY I'M GOING NORTH ANYWAY. GOT DELIVERIES. ALL I NEED ON THE RIDE ...IS COMPANY...
LIKE I SAID--I'M A REAL FAN.
WHATEVER IT TAKES.
EXCUSE, PLEASE--
--THE SENORITA COMES WITH US.
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YOU BETTER BE WORTH THIS...

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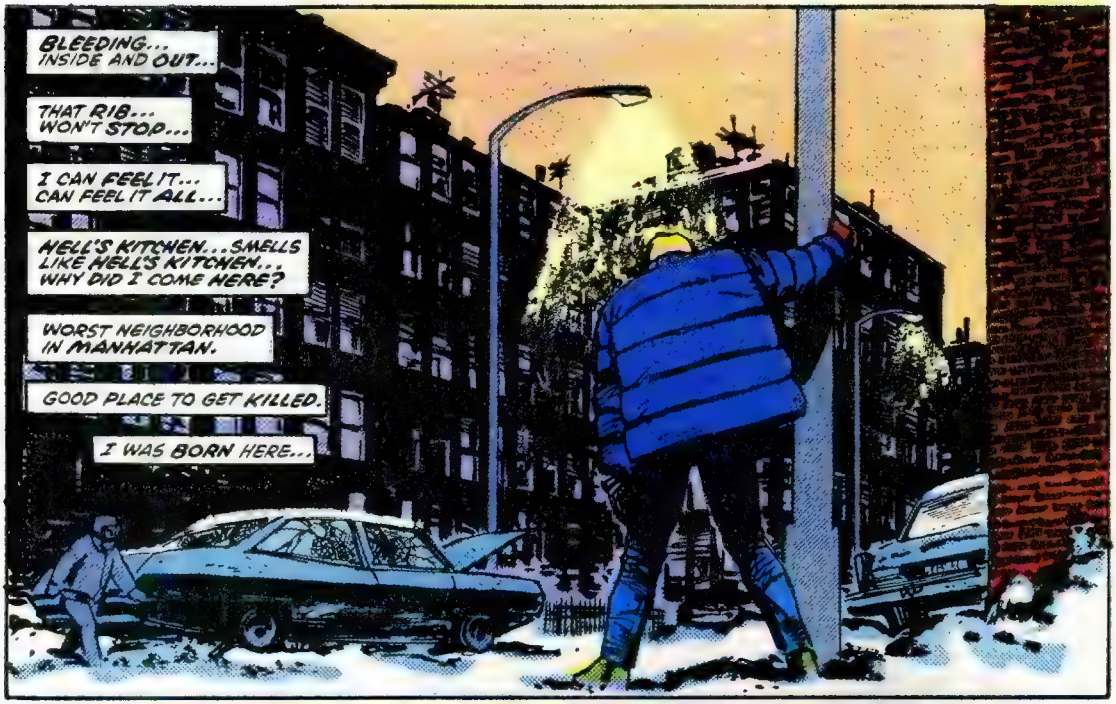
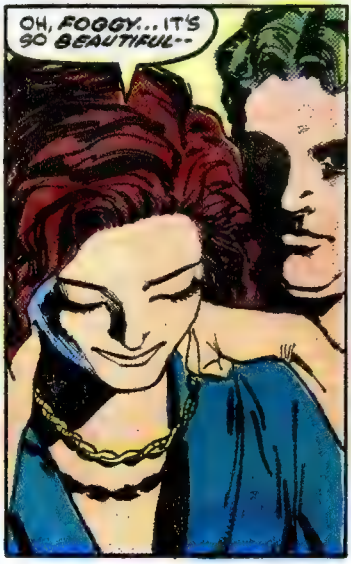

BLEEDING... INSIDE AND OUT...
THAT RIB... WON'T STOP...
I CAN FEEL IT... CAN FEEL IT ALL...
HELL'S KITCHEN... SMELLS LIKE HELL'S KITCHEN... WHY DID I COME HERE?
WORST NEIGHBORHOOD IN MANHATTAN.
GOOD PLACE TO GET KILLED.
I WAS BORN HERE...

...RIGHT DOWN THIS STREET. MY FATHER'S HOME...
MY HOME. THE ONLY HOME... I HAVE LEFT...

OH, FOGGY-- YE SHOULDN'T--
--YE REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE...


OH, FOGGY... IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL--

--SURE AND IT COST YOU A FORTUNE...

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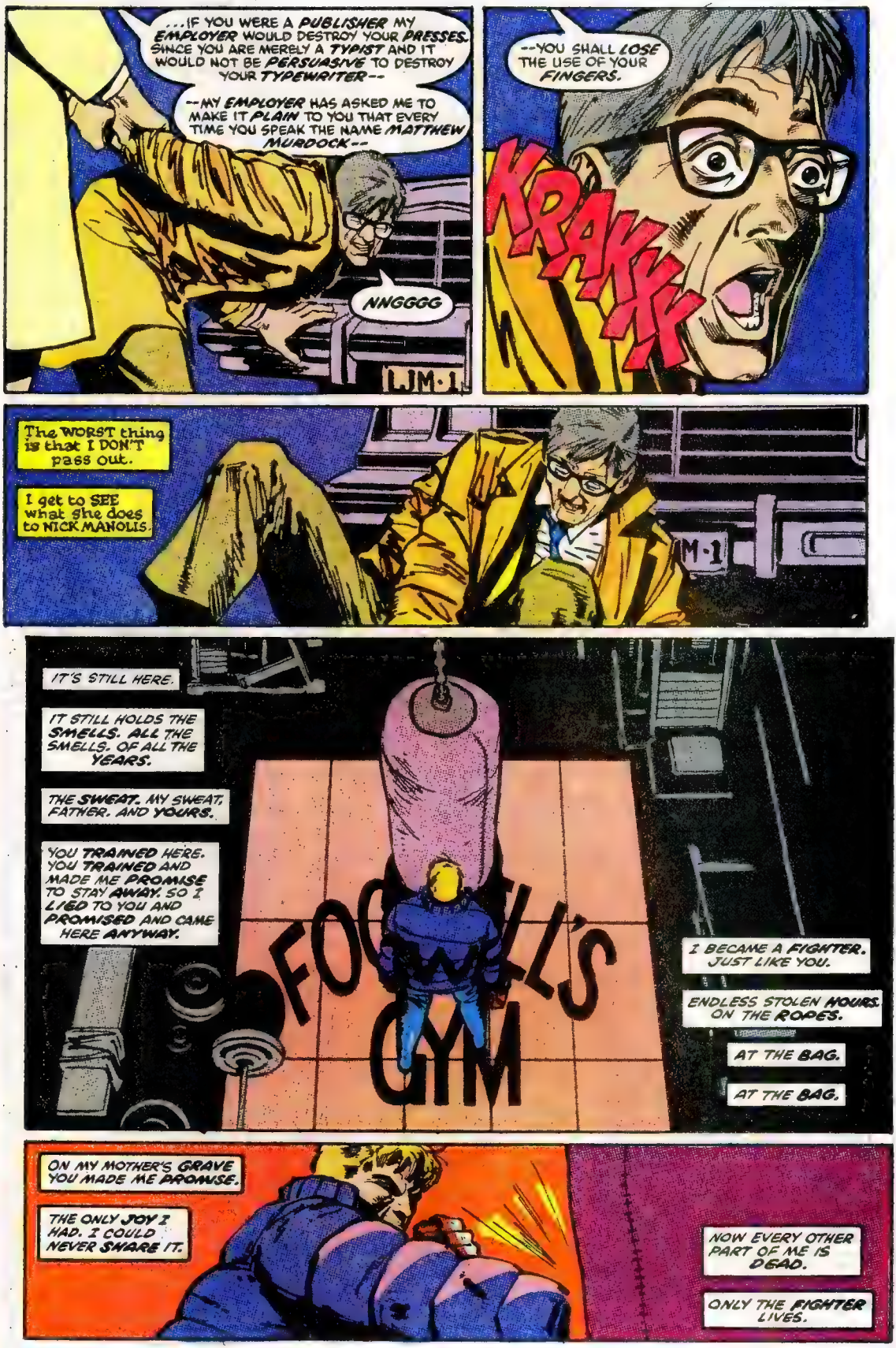
THE WIND IS COLD. BLOWS FAST ACROSS THE EMPTY LOT.
WHEN... DID THEY TEAR MY HOME DOWN?
FATHER. THEY TORE IT DOWN. THEY TORE IT DOWN.
FATHER. THE GYM.
THE GYM.
IT WILL STILL BE WHERE IT WAS.
IT HAS TO BE...

The CIGARETTE tastes AWFUL.
It's LIKE that sometimes.
GUESS IT WAS THE KINGPIN THAT MADE THE FRAME. DIDN'T KNOW THE GUY I SPOKE TO.
SOLD OUT. TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT FIXING A TICKET AND I SELL OUT AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SAVE MY BOY.
HEY-- IT'S GOT TO BE OKAY TO SMOKE OUT HERE...

DIDN'T EVEN SAVE MY B--
WHAT IN--
THWAKK

ARE YOU-- AAAA
MR. URICH--YOU ARE CAUSING MY EMPLOYER SOME DISCOMFORT. AND SO MY EMPLOYER HAS ASKED ME TO MAKE CLEAR TO YOU HIS POSITION.
HIS POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS...


...IF YOU WERE A PUBLISHER MY EMPLOYER WOULD DESTROY YOUR PRESSES. SINCE YOU ARE MERELY A TYPIST AND IT WOULD NOT BE PERSUASIVE TO DESTROY YOUR TYPEWRITER--
--MY EMPLOYER HAS ASKED ME TO MAKE IT PLAIN TO YOU THAT EVERY TIME YOU SPEAK THE NAME MATTHEW MURDOCK--
NNGGGG
LJM-1
--YOU SHALL LOSE THE USE OF YOUR FINGERS.
KRAKKK
The WORST thing is that I DON'T pass out.
I get to SEE what she does to NICK MANOLIS.
IM-1
IT'S STILL HERE.
IT STILL HOLDS THE SMELLS. ALL THE SMELLS. OF ALL THE YEARS.
THE SWEAT. MY SWEAT, FATHER. AND YOURS.
YOU TRAINED HERE. YOU TRAINED AND MADE ME PROMISE TO STAY AWAY. SO I LIED TO YOU AND PROMISED AND CAME HERE ANYWAY.
FOG ELL'S GYM
I BECAME A FIGHTER. JUST LIKE YOU.
ENDLESS STOLEN HOURS ON THE ROPES.
AT THE BAG.
AT THE BAG.
ON MY MOTHER'S GRAVE YOU MADE ME PROMISE.
THE ONLY JOY I HAD. I COULD NEVER SHARE IT.
NOW EVERY OTHER PART OF ME IS DEAD.
ONLY THE FIGHTER LIVES.

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MATT--
MATT.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

Dear Santa,

I've been a pretty good boy this year, if you don't count August. Actually, except for the incident with the Exploding Cantaloupe (Chris Claremont's nose is healing nicely) I was pretty well behaved. Oh, sure, I admit that I put those two goats wearing babushkas in Bob Layton's hotel room in Houston, but as it turned out, Bob, Billy, and Nanny became fast friends. They still write. Also, I can explain the kiddie pool full of lime Jell-o. But not here.

Anyway, I promise I'll never leave an exploding cantaloupe lying around again. How was I to know that Chris was passing by and in the mood for a Boston cooler? It was an accident that *he* got it. It was meant for a more *deserving* party. So, give me a break, huh?

Here's what I want for Christmas:

A castle like Doctor Doom's (but on Park Avenue) so I can say my house is almost as big as John Byrne's.

A hammer like Thor's to use for making fine adjustments on certain members of the creative staff.

A tight-fitting hat, like the one Magneto used to wear, to keep my head from swelling while reading the rave mail.

Steel-hard skin like Luke Cage's for when the occasional hate letter comes in from the occasional irate fan or competitor.

100 pairs of stretch socks.

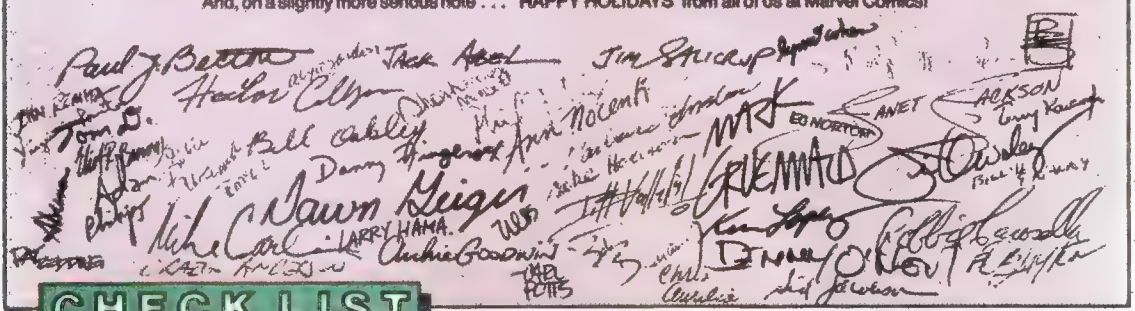
That's enough. But while I'm at it, please bring Chris a tea cozy to keep his nose warm until it's all better, and Bob a goat's cheese cookbook.

Oh, and one more thing. Please give a dozen exploding cantaloupes to you-know-who over at you-know-where.

Sincerely yours,

Jim S.

And, on a slightly more serious note . . . HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at Marvel Comics!



CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #1**—Direct from hit Saturday morning TV show, "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends," and into her own comic! Guest starring the New Mutants and the X-Men!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #4**—History was made in issues #46–65! Read all about it!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Gee!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #265**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ☐ **X-MEN #203**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #122**
- ☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #45**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #6**—Betrayal!
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **BALDER THE BRAVE (Limited Series) #3**—Special tie-in with the *Mighty Thor!*
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #4**—Uncanny mutant issue!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #1**—That popular West Coast Avenger finally stars in his own *double-sized* adventure!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #5**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #9**—Cataclysmic double-sized final issue, featuring virtually everyone in the Marvel Universe in the wildest battle you'll ever see!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #18**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #36**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #25**—Featuring "Weirdworld" and a Dave Sim Portfolio!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

EPIC COMICS

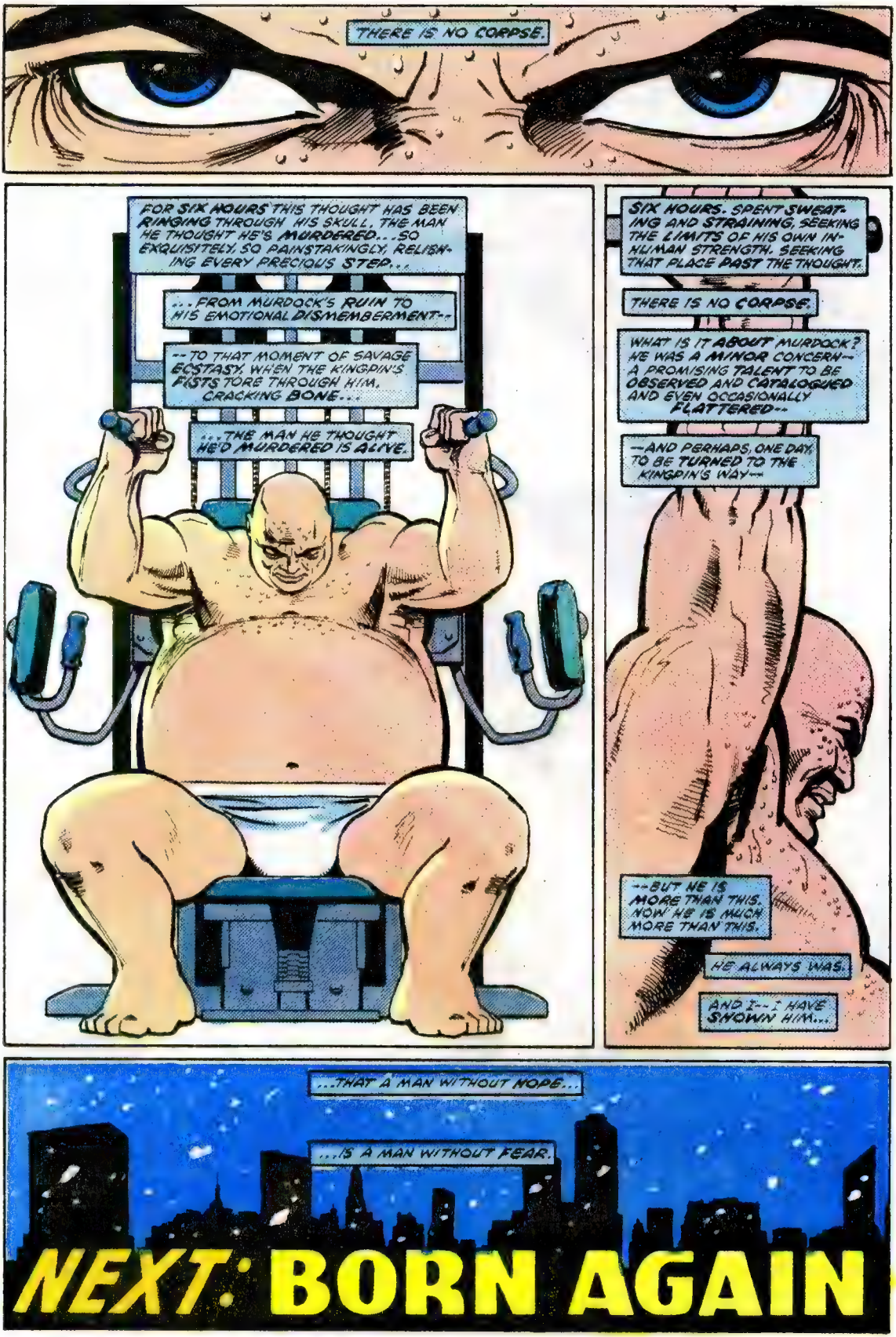
- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard new regular penciler GEOF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by *Epic* illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpio Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #6**—Could this be . . . the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

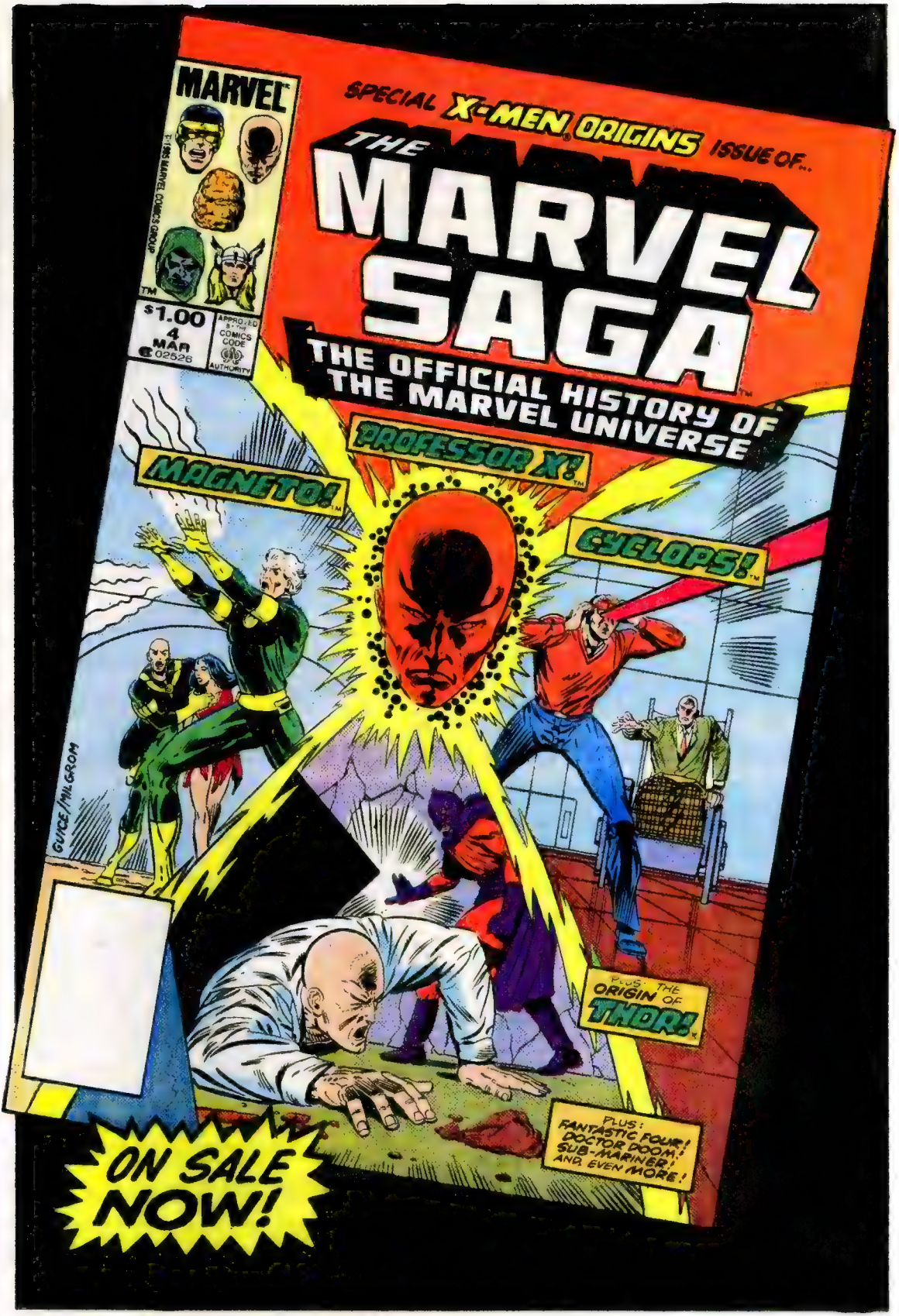
STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Cashelot?
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #6**—Scooter rules the world!
- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City?" Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!


THERE IS NO CORPSE.
FOR SIX HOURS THIS THOUGHT HAS BEEN RINGING THROUGH HIS SKULL. THE MAN HE THOUGHT HE'S MURDERED... SO EXQUISITELY, SO PAINSTAKINGLY, RELISHING EVERY PRECIOUS STEP...
...FROM MURDOCK'S RUIN TO HIS EMOTIONAL DISMEMBERMENT--
--TO THAT MOMENT OF SAVAGE ECSTASY, WHEN THE KINGPIN'S FISTS TORE THROUGH HIM, CRACKING BONE...
...THE MAN HE THOUGHT HE'D MURDERED IS ALIVE.
SIX HOURS. SPENT SWEATING AND STRAINING, SEEKING THE LIMITS OF HIS OWN INHUMAN STRENGTH. SEEKING THAT PLACE PAST THE THOUGHT.
THERE IS NO CORPSE.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT MURDOCK? HE WAS A MINOR CONCERN-- A PROMISING TALENT TO BE OBSERVED AND CATALOGUED AND EVEN OCCASIONALLY FLATTERED--
--AND PERHAPS, ONE DAY, TO BE TURNED TO THE KINGPIN'S WAY--
--BUT HE IS MORE THAN THIS. NOW HE IS MUCH MORE THAN THIS.
HE ALWAYS WAS.
AND I-- I HAVE SHOWN HIM...
...THAT A MAN WITHOUT HOPE...
...IS A MAN WITHOUT FEAR.
NEXT: BORN AGAIN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